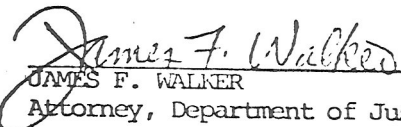


MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW OF JAMES R. BOATWRIGHT

On September 23, 1976, James R. Boatwright, Assistant Chief, Memphis Fire Department, telephoned, in response to a previous request for information, and advised that former Lt. Jack Smith of the fire department is now retired and living in Mississippi. He can be reached on telephone no.

Boatwright confirmed that Smith was Floyd Newsum's commanding officer on April 3, 1968, and was the individual who telephoned Newsum on the night of the 3rd and ordered him to report for duty at fire station no. 31 instead of no. 2 on the 4th. Boatwright said they were having a very tense situation during that time and a number of threatening calls (not directed against anyone in particular) had been received at fire station no. 2. Boatwright stated that he was the assistant chief dispatcher in 1968 and did not have first hand knowledge of the transfers. However, he said the consensus of opinion was that both Newsum and Norvell Wallace were transferred for their own protection, since they were the only blacks assigned to fire station no. 2.

Boatwright stated that former captain James O. Barnett is now retired and living in Memphis. His telephone no. is


JAMES F. WALKER
Attorney, Department of Justice

Reinterview of James R. Boatwright

On October 20, 1976, James R. Boatwright, Assistant Chief, Memphis Fire Department, furnished copies of: (1) Memphis Fire Department Strength Report-Fire Fighting Personnel dated April 3, 1968, for Shift "A", Battalions one and eight; (2) Memphis Fire Department Strength Report-Fire Fighting Personnel dated April 4, 1968, for Shift "B" Battalions one and two; and (3) pages 94 and 95 of the fire department's personnel log book for shifts "A" and "B" on April 3, 1968 and April 4, 1968, respectively.

Chief Boatwright explained that the above documents were the only records in the fire department that reflected the details of Firemen Norvell Wallace and Floyd Newsum on April 3, 1968 and April 4, 1968, respectively. According to Chief Boatwright the left side of the Strength Report shows the number of men that should be assigned to a company according to the table of organization (column 1); the second column shows the number of men actually assigned; the third column shows the minimum number of men for the company to operate; the fourth column identifies the company; and the fifth column shows the number of men actually on duty.

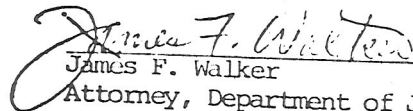
The Strength Report for April 3, 1968, shows that Wallace was detailed from company 2 to company 33 at 10:21p.m. There were six men in company 2 prior to the detail. After Wallace was detailed there were five men remaining which is the minimum strength for the company. Company 33 was operating with four men (the minimum strength) before Wallace was detailed and he made five men or one over the minimum strength.

Similarly, the Strength Report for April 4, 1968, shows that Newsum was detailed from company 55 to company 31. After the detail there were five men left on duty (the minimum strength) at company 55. On the other hand, company 31 had four men on duty before Newsum was detailed and he made five which was one man over the minimum strength.

Chief Boatwright indicated that the log records maintained by individual fire stations had been destroyed for the year 1968. Moreover, the only other available record which might have a bearing on the subject was the personnel department's log book

for April 3, 1968 and April 4, 1968 for Shifts "A" and "B". This record primarily shows the names of firemen on leave, etc. and does not reflect the details of Newsum or Wallace.

Chief Boatwright could give no reason why Newsum or Wallace were detailed, but said the consensus of opinion was they were both detailed for their own protection, since they were the only blacks assigned to the station.


James F. Walker
Attorney, Department of Justice